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Letter dated 22 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith, in English and French, a copy of the communiqué adopted by the 69th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 19 January 2007, on the situation in Somalia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pascal **Gayama**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 22 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 69th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 69th meeting held on 19 January 2007, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia and the deployment of an AU peace support mission in that country:

Council,

1. **Takes** note of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia [PSC/PR/2(LXIX)] and the recommendations made by the Military Staff Committee on the proposed deployment of an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);

2. **Welcomes** the outcome of the AU technical evaluation mission that undertook, from 13 to 15 January 2007, consultations in Mogadishu with the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia on the planned deployment of a peace support mission in that country;

3. **Recalls** its previous decisions on the deployment of a peace support mission in Somalia as well as resolution 1725 (2006) adopted by the UN Security Council on 6 December 2006, regarding the deployment of a peace support mission in Somalia and the modification effected on the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by resolution 733 (1992), to facilitate the deployment of such a mission;

4. **Reiterates** its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Somalia;

5. **Reiterates** its conviction that, following the recent developments that have enabled the TFG to take over Mogadishu and take control of the country, there exists today a unique and unprecedented opportunity to restore structures of governance in Somalia and bring about lasting peace and reconciliation, which the Somali people, their leaders and the international community as a whole should seize;

6. **Stresses** the need on the part of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to embark on an all-inclusive and genuine process of dialogue and reconciliation within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter. Council **welcomes** the stated commitment of the leaders of the TFG to dialogue and reconciliation, and **encourages** the TFG to pursue its ongoing efforts with a view to reaching out to all segments of the population. Council also **encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps to assist this process and to ensure that the AU plays a leading role in this respect;

7. **Further stresses** the critical role of the countries of the region in the overall efforts aimed at bringing about lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia and strongly **appeals** to them to demonstrate the necessary cohesion in support of the TFIs and their efforts;

8. **Decides** to authorize the deployment of AMISOM, for a period of 6 months, starting from the date of this decision, with the mandate (i) to provide support to the TFIs in their efforts towards the stabilization

of the situation in the country and the furtherance of dialogue and reconciliation, (ii) to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, and (iii) to create conducive conditions for long-term stabilization, reconstruction and development in Somalia. In this respect, AMISOM, which shall be adequately equipped to project the appropriate posture, shall undertake the following tasks:

- to support dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia, working with all stakeholders,
- to provide, as appropriate, protection to the TFIs and their key infrastructure, to enable them carry out their functions,
- to assist in the implementation of the National Security and Stabilization Plan of Somalia, particularly the effective reestablishment and training of all inclusive Somali security forces, bearing in mind the programs already being implemented by some of Somalia's bilateral and multilateral partners,
- to provide, within capabilities and as appropriate, technical and other support to the disarmament and stabilization efforts,
- to monitor, in areas of deployment of its forces, the security situation,
- to facilitate, as may be required and within capabilities, humanitarian operations, including the repatriation and reintegration of refugees and the resettlement of IDPs, and
- to protect its personnel, installations and equipment, including the right of self-defense;

9. **Further decides** that:

- AMISOM shall comprise 9 infantry battalions of 850 personnel each supported by maritime coastal and air components, as well as an appropriate civilian component, including a police training team,
- the initial deployment shall involve at least 3 infantry battalions, with adequate arrangements for additional battalions to follow quickly,
- AMISOM shall be deployed for a period of six (6) months, aimed essentially at contributing to the initial stabilization phase in Somalia, with a clear understanding that the mission will evolve to a United Nations operation that will support the long term stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia.
- the concept of logistic support for AMISOM shall be based on self-sustenance by the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), based on the model of the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB). The Commission shall mobilize logistical support for the TCCs, as well as funding from AU members states and partners to ensure that TCCs are reimbursed for the costs incurred in the course of their deployment, based on AU practice;

10. **Welcomes** the steps being taken by the Commission to convene a meeting that will bring together military and security experts of the AU, the TCCs, the TFG and IGAD, with the support of the United Nations and other stakeholders, to develop a detailed operation plan, as well as a meeting that will involve the TCCs, on the one hand, the AU member states and partners willing to provide technical, logistical and financial support, on the other;

11. **Urges** member states to provide military and other personnel, equipment and services that will be required for the successful deployment of AMISOM;

12. **Appeals** to AU member states, the League of Arab States, the European Union and its member states, the United Nations, as well as other AU partners, to urgently provide, in a predictable and coordinated manner, the required financial, technical and logistical support to facilitate the deployment of AMISOM as soon as possible;

13. **Requests** the United Nations and its Security Council to provide all the support necessary for the speedy deployment of AMISOM and the effective accomplishment of its mandate, including the review of resolution 1725 in light of the recent developments in Somalia and the provision of financial support, bearing in mind that in deploying a mission in Somalia the African Union is acting on behalf of the entire international community.;

14. **Stresses** that the long term stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia will require the strong involvement of the United Nations. In this respect, Council **urges** the United Nations Security Council to consider authorizing a United Nations operation in Somalia that would take over from AMISOM at the expiration of its 6 months mandate;

15. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on all aspects of this decision and report to it regularly. Council **further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to maintain close liaison with IGAD, the League of Arab States, the United Nations, as well as other stakeholders, to ensure effective and coordinated support for the efforts to sustain peace and reconciliation in Somalia;

16. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.